The Capitol Hill Monitor

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TOUR MIEMSS's EMRC/SYSCOM

We have a tour scheduled of the Emergency Medical Resources Center and SysCom for May 11 at 2 p.m. This is the center on the University of Maryland at Baltimore campus that dispatches the medevac choppers and maintains hospital status in the Baltimore area. If you're interested in coming make certain to contact Alan at 301-270-2531 several days in advance. Our thanks to Doug Walton for setting this up for us!

SCANNING ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE!

by Bill Hardman

Andrews Air Force Base (ADW) is the largest USAF installation in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. It is perhaps best known as the home of *Air Force 1*, the President's aircraft (actually there are two, and any aircraft with the President on board becomes Air Force 1). ADW is unique in that it houses the 89th Airlift Wing --the "official airline" of the federal government. These are the aircraft that fly the Special Air Mission (SAM) flights.

In addition, however, ADW has another USAF airlift wing, the 459th, from the USAF Reserve which flies C-141's, the largest USAF medical facility on the east coast, a Naval Air Facility including a squadron of P-3 Orions and a squadron of EA-6B Prowlers, the headquarters of the Middle East Region of the Civil Air Patrol, a USMC Reserve FA-18 fighter squadron, and the Air National Guard Readiness Center. If this isn't enough to keep the place busy, it is the primary point of entry for official visitors to the United States, for example, heads of state, heads of government, foreign ministers, kings, and queens. The missions and organizations will be noted in more detail later.

In 1996, most of the radio operations on the base were switched to a ten-channel trunked system, although some conventional VHF/UHF is still used. The frequencies are listed below. As of this writing, over fifty talk-groups have been identified in use. The system is a "campus" system, that is, it is designed for use on (or near) the air base only. Because it is a campus system, some elements that regularly operate off the installation, such as the transportation motor pool, have retained their VHF capability. The trunked system uses four control channels in daily rotation. Two additional channels are set aside under normal conditions for phone patches, however, when the system becomes loaded they operate as additional voice channels.

Trunked System:

Output	Input	Use
406.3500	413.0250	Control/Voice
406.9500	413.2000	Control/Voice
407.1500	413.2750	Control/Voice
407.4250	413.3750	Control/Voice
408.0250	415.1500	Voice
408.2000	415.8250	Voice
408.7500	415.9500	Voice
408.9500	416.2500	Voice
409.3500	416.3500	Fon Patch/Voice
409.7250	417.1500	Fon Patch/Voice

Air Traffic Control

VHF	UHF	Use
113.1000	251.0500	ATIS
127.5500	393.1000	Clnc Control
121.8000	275.8000	Ground Control
118.4000	289.6000	Tower
	236.6000	Alt Tower
119.3000	335.5000	Approach/Depart
125.3500		GCA*
124.0000		GCA*
360.8000		GCA*
379.2000		GCA*
389.8000		GCA*

*Ground Controlled Approach

Aircraft Operations

122.8500	372.2000	PTD*
122.8500	386.8000	NAF PTD
141.5500 AM	378.1000	Command Post
	344.6000	METRO
141.7000 AM	292.2000	1st Helo Sqdn
	351.2000	459th AW
	314.2500	201stALS (DCANG)
138.4500 AM	252.1000	113th FW (DCANG)
	337.0000	NAF Fleet Log Spt Wing
	302.6000	NAF VP-68 CP
	346.5000	HQ USMC Flt

Ground Support Operations

138.7250	S	None	NAF Support Ops
142.3000	S	141.3	ANG Readiness Ctr
169.6000	R	None	Motor Pool Dispatch
163.1375	I	None	Input to 169.6
163.5875	S	None	113th FW Ops
173.5875		None	Fire Dispatch Simulcast
407.3750	P	None	Base Pagers

* Pilot to Dispatch

As noted above, most units have switched to the trunked system. A partial list of some of these elements follows:

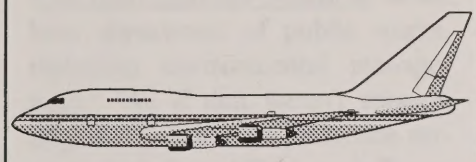
89th Wing Command Net
89th Wing/ADW Command Post
89th Security Police
  Law Enforcement
  Base Security
  Executive Flight Security
  DV Security
89th Wing Public Affairs
89th Wing Protocol
Presidential Pilots' Office
Airevac Operations
Military Airlift Control Center
1st Airlift Squadron
99th Airlift Squadron
st Helicopter Squadron
89th Aerial Port
    Airfield Operations
    Ramp Control
    Services
    Passenger Control
    Cargo Control
SAM Operations
89th Transportation Squadron
89th Civil Engineer Squadron
(several talk groups for grounds,
  building maintenance, etc.)
459th Airlift Wing
Andrews Golf Course
Fire Department
  (Several Talk Groups)
Andrews Officers Club
Hospital Operations
  Hospital EMS Dispatch
457th Airlift Squadron
Base Emergency Preparedness
PAT Operations (Army)
Naval Air Facility Security
89th Comm Group
89th Comm Squadron
789th Comm Squadron
Aircraft Refueling
89th Aircraft Generation Sqdn

This is only a sampling of the talk groups, and some of those listed have two or more talk groups.

89th Airlift Wing

The 89th AW is the "owner and operator" of Andrews AFB. In addition to operating the base itself, the 89th provides world-wide airlift support to the various branches of the government, primarily the executive branch. It consists of the wing headquarters and five groups: Operations, Logistics, Communications, Support, and Medical. The wing commander identifies as "command 1"; the group commanders identify as "operations 1", "support 1", etc.

Presidential Pilot's Office



Although technically a Department of Defense office, the Presidential Pilot's Office operates "closely" with the 89th AW. This is the element that operates and maintains "Air Force One" --which is actually two aircraft. They are the VC-25A, the special military version of the Boeing 747; tail numbers 28000 and 29000. In addition to facilities for the President and his staff, the aircraft have special communications suites.

When the president travels outside the area, an additional communications aircraft from the 55th Wing at Offut AFB, Omaha, Nebraska accompanies the flight to augment communications. **Any** USAF aircraft with the president on board is Air Force One. When the president is not on board, the aircraft identify variously as SAM (tail Number) or Venus (tail number). The Presidential Pilot's Office operations are on the trunked system.

89th Operations Group

The group consists of the 1st Airlift Squadron (six C-137 [Boeing 707]); the 99th Airlift Squadron (three C-9 [Douglas DC-9] and four C-20 [Gulfstream III & IV]). When carrying VIPs, they either use a special designation (e.g., executive one foxtrot with the first lady aboard), or "SAM". When not carrying VIPs they identify as "Venus".

Since 1993, the 457th Airlift Squadron has been a part of the 89th. It operates eight C-21 (Learjet) aircraft in a variety of Operational Support Airlift missions. They formerly identified as "Pacer", but now identify as "JOSA" (Joint Operational Support Aircraft).

The 1st Helicopter Squadron operates twenty-one UH-1N helicopters in and around the Washington area, providing helicopter support to the Department of Defense as well as a search and rescue and medical evacuation.

In addition to the flying elements, the operations group has the critical mission of operating the airfield. The 89th Aerial Port Squadron processes and loads personnel, baggage, cargo, and equipment and is the busiest port in the USAF. The 89th Operations Support Squadron provides intelligence, weather, airfield operations, training and flight management. Radio operations are on the trunked system.

89th Logistics Group

The logistics group is responsible for off flight-line aircraft maintenance, base supply, transportation and contracting. It includes the following units:

89th Aircraft Generation Squadron -provides on-equipment maintenance of SAM aircraft.

89th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron -provides intermediate-level maintenance for SAM and transient aircraft,

selected ground equipment, and munitions. The squadron also maintains the FAA certified avionics, fabrication, and propulsion repair stations.

89th Logistics Support Squadron -develops policies and procedures for distinguished visitor air operations, develops and instructs selected aircraft maintenance courses, and provides logistics analyses.

89th Transportation Squadron -operates the post motor pool and ancillary services for ground transportation, including specially selected executive driver services.

89th Contracting Squadron -Negotiates and manages contracted services for the 89th AW and tenant units.

89th Supply Squadron -Supports both the 89th and the 459th AW's. Provides fuel and supplies for both aircraft and base operations.

Radio operations are primarily on the trunked system. The motor pool dispatch of the 89th Trans Sqdn continues to operate on **169.6000.**

89th Communications Group

The 89th Comm Group operates and maintains the computer and communications systems for the base and at selected other locations in the Washington area.

789th Communications Squadron -operates the worldwide communications systems, including the presidential communications network for Air Force One and other SAM aircraft. It also operates the Brandywine receiver and Davidsonville transmitter stations and a Global HF station at Waldorf.

89th Communications Squadron -operates and maintains the on-base communications, including telephone, and computer systems. It also maintains television and intrusion detection systems and provides graphic/visual arts support to the installation. Support is also provided to Bolling AFB and Camp David.

Radio operations are on the trunked system.

89th Support Group

The support group is the "landlord" and operates the base, other than the airfield. In essence, the 89th Support Group commander is the "city manager".

89th Civil Engineer Squadron -is the base department of public works, including environmental management. As if that weren't enough, they also provide fire protection services, including airfield crash & rescue operations.

89th Security Police Squadron -provides law enforcement and security services. It is also responsible for securing Air Force One both at home (USA) and overseas.

89th Mission Support Squadron -provides military and civilian personnel services, as well as meeting the educational and family support needs for the base.

89th Services Squadron -is responsible for feeding, clothing, housing, and recreation for base personnel and visitors.

Radio operations are on the trunked system. Communications of the security elements are normally encrypted. The Fire Department operates on the trunked system, but simulcasts dispatches and primary operations on **173.5875.**

89th Medical Group

The medical group provides medical services throughout the region and includes the Malcolm Grow Medical Center, the largest USAF medical facility on the east coast. It is a 185-bed hospital. Included in the group are the 89th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. The squadron operates a separate 75-bed medical holding facility that permits patients to rest and be cared for during transfers. The squadron prepares patients for flight, transports them to and from airevac aircraft, and supervises the loading and unloading of patients. It handles about 20,000 patients a year.

Radio operations are on the trunked system. This includes both the ambulance dispatch as well as airevac operations.

Federal Aviation Administration

The 32 air traffic controllers and 25 technicians operate and maintain the airway facilities at Andrews and its immediate environment including some approaches to Washington National Airport. They handle about 160,000 aircraft operations at Andrews annually.

459th Airlift Wing (AFRES)

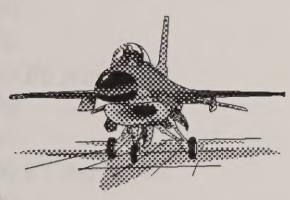
The 459th operates a fleet of C-141B "Starlifter" aircraft and is a part of the USAF Reserve. It is a fully operational wing consisting of four groups -operations, logistics, medical, and support. It provides long-range airlift of both personnel and cargo, and includes an aeromedical evacuation (airevac) squadron, in addition to the 756th Airlift

Squadron. Radio operations are primarily on the trunked system, although some operations continue to use some VHF (148.10, 148.20, 148.50). The VHF radios, however, are rapidly being phased out for use at Andrews. Aircraft contact operations on 351.20.

Air National Guard Readiness Center

The ANGRC is an operating agency of the National Guard Bureau of the Department of Defense. It is charged with managing and implementing national policies and serves as a conduit between the states and the National Guard Bureau on matters concerning the readiness of Air National Guard units. *It is not on the trunked system.* For administrative and building maintenance operations it maintains a simplex radio net on **142.30 [141.3].**

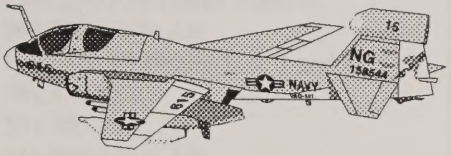
District of Columbia Air National Guard



The 113th FW is a District of Columbia Air National Guard unit and flies F-16A Fighting Falcons. The command post frequencies for the 113th are 138.45 AM and 251.20 where they identify with various call signs including Wild, Bully, Cap and Satan. Operations and maintenance are on 163.5875.

The 231st Combat Communications Squadron installs and operates communications and air traffic control equipment. It currently supports military operations at Shepard ANGB, Martinsburg, WV. The 121st Weather Flight provides weather data and forecasts. The 201st Airlift Squadron is a unique multi-engined unit that operates three C-22B (Boeing 727) and four C-21A Learjets. Their call sign is "Boxer" and in addition to operational support missions, they provide special mission support airlift. Their command post is on 314.25.

Washington Naval Air Facility



The NAF is a Navy facility located on Andrews AFB. It is primarily a reserve training facility, but it also provides support to the Naval District of Washington and Navy dignitaries. The NAF security element operates on the Andrews trunked system, although 138.725 has been retained for administrative and ground transportation purposes.

Reserve units include VP-68 flying P-3 Orion anti-submarine aircraft (call sign "Whiskey") and VAQ-209 which flies EA-6B electronic warfare aircraft (call sign "Cobra"). VP-68 operates a specially equipped P-3 for the Chief of Naval Operations.

Marine Air Group 49, Detachment A is also located at Andrews. Its major element is the FA-18 Hornet equipped VMFA-321, call sign "Combat". Additionally, the Marine Aircraft Support Detachment, with C-12 and C20 aircraft, provides support for the Commandant of the Marines and other dignitaries.

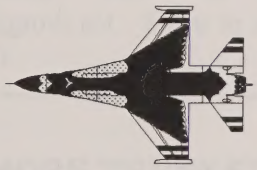
NAVAIR

BLUE ANGELS, THUNDERBIRDS TO PERFORM IN AREA

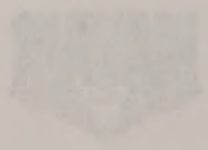
The Defense Department's Joint Services Open House is set for May 17 and 18 at Andrews AFB. The Air Force Thunderbirds F-16C Fighting Falcon jets and the Army's Golden Knights parachute team are this year's featured attractions.

The US Navy's Blue Angels and their F/A-18 Hornets are scheduled to perform at the Naval Academy. A rehearsal is planned for May 20 with the performance on May 21 (graduation is on May 23). The Thunderbirds and Blue Angels usually arrive in the area a few days ahead of time and may attempt a practice flight or two. So it's a good idea to monitor the frequencies in advance.

Frequencies listed below are those that have been reported from around the country. Frequencies previously used by the teams in this area have been noted with a star and are the likely candidates for use this year. Expect to hear the aerobatic teams on two or three frequencies during each performance.

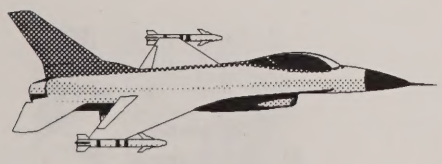


Thunderbirds
66.900
114.950
120.450 Stunt Coordination
123.400 Air Show Control
124.925 Air to Air
124.930 ?
124.935 ?
134.100 Parachute Demos
138.875 Parachute Demos



140.000 Air to Air
140.400 F16/C130 Comms
141.055
*141.850 Air to Air, Victor-1 (AM)
142.000 Air to Air
143.850 Air to Air, Victor-2 (AM)
148.175 (AM)
148.500
148.550 Ground Support (AM)
218.000
233.600
235.250 Uniform-2
236.550 Solos
236.600 Air to Ground
236.650
241.400 Air to Ground
241.800
250.850 Team Leader
273.000
273.500 F2 Air to Air
281.400
283.500 F3 Air to Air
294.700
295.700 F1 Air to Air
319.700
322.000
322.300 F4 Air to Air (DCA approach)
322.600 F5 Air to Air
*322.950 Solo Aircraft, Uniform 1
336.400
343.600
372.000
382.900 F6 Air to Air
383.900
392.900
394.000 F7 Air to Air
413.000
*413.025 Ground Support
(Note: Now part of ADW trunk)
413.100 Ground Support

Blue Angels



118.100
118.200
123.000 Airshow Common
123.400 Airshow Common
141.560 Maintenance, "Charlie"
142.000 Maintenance, "Alpha" (AM)
142.025Maintenance, "Delta"
142.625 in to 142.025
142.260
142.265
143.000 Maintenance, "Bravo" (AM)
143.600 F10 Maintenance
*238.150 Air to Air
241.400 Air to Air
245.900 Air to Air
246.400 Air to Air, Planes 5 and 6
250.800 Air to Air, Planes 5 and 6
*251.500 Air to Air
*251.600 F8/10/19 Planes 5 and 6
251.800 F19 Planes 5 and 6
*263.350 F10 Planes 5 and 6
263.500 Air to Air
*275.350 F9 Planes 1, 2, 3 and 4
302.150 F17
307.700 F16
318.900 Air to Air
319.800
328.400
345.900 Air to Air
348.600 Ground Support
360.400
362.600 Airshow Control
382.500 Air to Air
384.400 Air to Air
391.100 Air to Air
391.900 Air to Air
395.500 Air to Air
395.900 Air to Air

This year's open house commemorates the Air Force's 50th anniversary. For more details call the open house hotline at

301-568-5995 or 301-981-2273 or http://www.aon.af.mil/.

And remember, please take note of any frequency preset cards or anything else of interest and share your findings with the rest of us!

DC AREA SCANNER BUFFS GO ONLINE!

Thanks to our friends at Grove Enterprises, scanner listeners in the Washington-Baltimore region now have a listserv of their own to use for exchanging messages online! All that is needed is a computer with a modem and access to internet e-mail. Free e-mail service for Windows users, by the way, is available from Juno Online Services (1-800-654-JUNO). You can also contact Alan if you need the Juno software.

Here's how it works: Individuals who join the listserv can e-mail messages to the listserv system (scan-dc@grove.net). When the system receives the messages, it automatically e-mails them to everyone who has joined the listserv --a quick and efficient way to disseminate information!

The scan-dc list is still in its testing phase, but you may join by sending an e-mail to: majordomo@grove.net with the message "subscribe scan-dc" or "subscribe scan-dc-digest" (no quotes) on the first line of the message. The digest is available for those who prefer not to receive each message individually. The digest is a single message that contains all archived messages since the last digest. Grove.net also sponsors several other radio-related lists including milcom. For a complete list, send "lists" to majordomo@grove.net. Hope to see you there :-)

MORE TRUNKED UPDATES

The DC Control Board, says Vince Destajo, has reportedly rejected the agreement the city made with Motorola because of its lack of competitiveness. Further delay could jeopardize the fire department's license for its proposed 800 MHz trunked system.

Carroll County's trunked system is up and running. The target date for the switchover is July. See the last CHM for frequencies.

For several months radio techs at the National Institutes of Health have been dabbling with an analog Motorola UHF trunked system. Scott Glazer reports that NIH plans to convert the system to a wide-area Astro (digital) 20-channel trunked system in October. So far we have identified the system on four frequencies, 409.0, 410.225, 410.425 and 411.825. NIH appears to be the owner of the system, however, other civilian and military agencies will likely join. Can anyone provide other frequencies for the system?

Changes are occurring at a rapid pace. Please pass along any details and help keep the rest of us up-to-date!

WANTED! John Korman is interested in purchasing a programmable VHF handheld two-way radio (preferable Motorola or other name brand) with 16 or more channels, battery and charger. John is also searching for an 800 MHz Motorola trunked radio. Please e-mail John at: 89421@UDEL.EDU or page 301-391-5553.

NEWSSCAN

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND CELL PHONES. "While cellular phones provide remarkable convenience, their use is accompanied by the risk of disclosure of the private communication of information generally presumed in ordinary telephone conversations," warns attorney Mitchell C. Shelowitz in the Feb. 3 New York Law Journal. "It should be remembered," he writes, "that cellular phones are nothing more than sophisticated walkie-talkies, which transmit and receive messages over radio frequencies."

As illustrated by the Gingrich case, Shelowitz points out, cellular conversations are readily interceptable, although such activity is prohibited by federal law. Interception can also occur by accidental signal confusion, whereby a cellular phone transmission is accidentally received by cell phones in use by other unsuspecting cellular users.

The attorney-client privilege, he states, is a rule of evidence that provides virtually absolute protection for private communications between attorney and client that are conducted for the purpose of obtaining legal advice. The touchstone of the attorney-client privilege is the "reasonable expectation of confidentiality."

Absent such expectation, he argues, the privilege will not protect a particular communication. For instance, where an attorney-client conversation is conducted in a crowded hallway, elevator or restaurant, where any number of people could listen to the conversation, a reasonable expectation of confidentiality would be lacking.

"The courts have resoundingly held that because of the ease of interception, users have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their wireless conversations. Based upon this conclusion, it is conceivable that a court could find that communications between lawyer and client over a wireless communicator lack the requisite reasonable expectation of confidentiality, and are, therefore, unprotected by the privilege. With respect to text pagers, the privilege might not protect messages sent to an attorney by a client that either could easily be read by others, or that could accidentally be transmitted to the wrong paging unit."

The general conclusions are that lawyers should be wary regarding the use of such devices and that a lawyer should immediately disclose to his client that a call is being made via cellular or portable telephone, warn the client of the inherent risks associated with such communications, and allow the client to decide whether to continue the conversation.

Furthermore, he adds, "the attorney should provide a similar warning if he or she has reason to believe that the client is calling from a cellular or portable telephone. Where client consent is unavailable, the lawyer should exercise good judgment and terminate or limit such conversations as appropriate under the circumstances. Bar associations in Illinois and Iowa have gone a step further, suggesting that such conversations may lose the protection afforded by the attorney-client privilege."

EXPERT SAYS NO LAW BROKEN IN GINGRICH CELLULAR CASE. "Hardly anyone likes it," writes attorney Charles Tiefer in the Feb. 3 New Jersey Law Journal, "that millions of owners of so-called Bearcat scanners can overhear cellular and cordless phone calls. It is not only an invasion of privacy, but also disconcerting that a whole subculture --including John and Alice Martin, who intercepted this [Gingrich] call --apparently has been whiling away its time listening to those scanners."

"However," Tiefer states, "the courts adjudicating criminal and civil cases growing out of the existence and use of those millions of CB-scanners have reached remarkably consistent results. Many reported cases concern instances when the scanners scoop up, along with the police emergency news, telephone calls on cellular and cordless phones. Almost invariably, the cases under the original intercept statute (Title III of the Crime Control Act of 1968) have reached the same result: no sanctions."

"Every reported judicial opinion under that statute has said that a cellular or cordless phone user just cannot have a 'reasonable expectation of privacy' in light of the ease of CB-scanner overhearing. Even when the owner of a 'Bearcat 350 radio receiver scanner' intercepted and taped a conversation between a defendant, speaking on his car phone, and his attorney talking in his law office about matters within the attorney-client privilege, the eavesdropper suffered no penalty."

Tiefer argues that the Martins did not violate the Electronic Communications Privacy Act because "the inadvertent reception of a protected communication is not a crime." Even more interesting, he says that "under these circumstances, once the Martins made the tape, then those who later 'disclosed' it --whether Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., or reporter Adam Clymer of The New York Times --also have not broken the law."

"For a disclosure violation, the statute requires not only that the original interception be in violation of the law, but also that anyone else down this peculiar feeding chain must have 'reason to know' (which here means knowledge of specific facts) that the original interception was illegal." Tiefer was solicitor and deputy general counsel of the House of Representatives and prior to that was assistant Senate legal counsel.

RESEARCHERS CRACK CELLULAR ENCRYPTION. Researchers from Minnesota and California, noted the March 21 Washington Post, said they succeeded in cracking one of the three North American encryption standards, adopted by the cellular industry in 1992. Using a Pentium computer, the researchers were able to untangle a fairly unsophisticated code that scrambles the identity of the buttons that callers push on their digital cell phones. Such a breach could allow people to learn callers' personal identification or credit card numbers that are dialed into phones.

Cellular industry officials said most companies that today are building new digital networks nationwide aren't even bothering to offer encryption. The reason, they say, is that digital by its nature already is so much more secure than older analog cell phones and they see no market advantage in adding the encryption technology. Including the encryption, they say, would make the phones costlier and heavier, and lengthen the time it takes to connect calls.

Bell Atlantic-Nynex Mobile, which recently unveiled a new digital service for the Washington-Baltimore area, has opted not to include any encryption technology with its service, company officials said. Some U.S. carriers, including Sprint Spectrum in this area, use a European digital standard called GSM that includes an encryption standard that company officials say is much tougher to break than the North American standard now being debunked by the scientists.

AT&T PLANS WIRELESS LINK TO HOMES. The Feb. 26 Washington Post reports that AT&T says it wants offer local phone service and Internet access through the airwaves to snatch customers away from local phone companies. The long-distance giant said it is betting on wireless technology as an important way to penetrate the country's $100 billion-a-year local telephone market.

A radio transceiver, roughly the size of a pizza box, would attached to the sides of customers' homes and link the internal wiring of the house. AT&T said it would install the device for free. The box would communicate with equipment installed on the same towers that AT&T uses for its current 7 million cellular customers, as well as towers it is installing to provide PCS service in the Washington area and other places nationwide. AT&T plans to test the technology in Chicago before offering it nationwide.

UNIDEN TO RESTRUCTURE WITH TECHNOLOGY FOCUS. "Uniden Corp. is quietly but extensively restructuring its U.S. operations with technology at the core of its mission," states the Feb. 17 issue of the Radio Comm. Report. "And

despite talk of internal troubles, Uniden top executives report the changes are all good." All restructuring is internal, says Robert Gibbs, president of Uniden America Corp., and is "not affecting the sales, the product lines or engineering." In fact, Uniden America has tripled its spending on research in the last few years, he added.

Uniden recently spun off its land mobile radio products sector into its own company, Uniden Private Radio Communications (PRC), also headquartered in Dallas. While Uniden America is a consumer products company, the mainstay of Uniden PRC is manufacturing and marketing private and specialized mobile radio dispatch and trunking systems. Extended Subaudible Signalling is PRC's proprietary trunking protocol. ESS is an enhancement to standard LTR trunking systems as it offers more features including multisite dispatch, fast roaming and paging.

Uniden PRC, said one executive, will target the "mid-to low-tier markets." Land mobile radio is a $6 billion market. Motorola and Ericsson dominate the high-tier markets, which include public safety and utility markets. Uniden PRC is aiming to serve business and industrial groups in the United States and Eastern Europe. In Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Uniden is targeting government agencies and small businesses.

Uniden USA Inc. is an original equipment manufacturer company for wireless personal communications devices. All of the company's U.S. divisions are subsidiaries of Uniden Corp. of Tokyo. Uniden America also produces cordless phones, cellular phones, pagers, DSS satellite receivers, marine, CB and scanner radios and radar detectors. Uniden plans to develop products compatible with Motorola Inc.'s ReFLEX two-way messaging and InFLEXion voice paging protocols as well.

TOO MANY EMERGENCIES, NOT ENOUGH FREQUENCIES. Public safety agencies are lobbying to have the FCC set aside a total of 97.3 MHz in different parts of the spectrum --more than four times their present allotment --by the year 2010, and double their amount immediately. According to the Dec. 30 New York Times, the FCC wants the public safety agencies to make better use of frequencies they have, or share them with other users.

Last April, the commission issued a notice of a rule it intends to propose, declaring that public agencies should adopt a variety of strategies to increase the efficiency of spectrum use. While acknowledging the fiscal implications for these agencies, the FCC suggested more use of advanced technology to get more channels out of the existing spectrum. It also suggested that agencies buy services and equipment from the growing commercial wireless market.

State, local and regional safety agencies use frequencies covering a total of 23.2 megahertz of the radio spectrum. The FCC's last allocation for public safety in 1987 designated 230 channels totaling 6 megahertz in the 800-megahertz band, a region in which many new trunked systems are being developed.

The FCC notice also criticized the "lack of a vigorous competitive market" in radio equipment for public safety uses, saying that once a system is chosen from one of the two main suppliers, competition for maintenance and upgrades is "virtually nonexistent." Agencies pay higher prices and have little access to "innovation and expanded product choice," it added.

A Motorola official insists that the company's digital systems for 800 megahertz and above are compatible with the standard developed by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials and said that Ericsson "refuses to meet that standard." An Ericsson representative said Motorola's licensing requirements deterred his company from making compatible equipment.

TRAFFIC PLANE HELPS POLICE. The Chattanooga [Tennessee] Air Traffic Network began 16 months ago and has gained a wide following, with 75 percent of area radio stations subscribing to the service. Unlike most traffic services, says the Feb. 23 Chattanooga Free Press, the Air Traffic Network is the only media outlet in the area with direct access to the Sheriff's Department radio frequency, using the designation "Air Watch One." The airborne pilot can speak with the sheriff dispatcher just as a deputy would. The sheriff praised the service as a way to warn officers of situations before arriving on the scene.

SCANNER LISTENER AIDS POLICE. An undercover DC police officer noticed a suspicious man in front of a shop on Wisconsin Avenue. Officers checked the store and found it had just been burglarized. Police broadcast a lookout for the suspect's car. A scanner buff, says the Jan. 24 Washington Times, who asked not to be identified, heard the lookout. Minutes later the buff realized the car had just sped past him and he followed as it headed north and called Montgomery County police. The DC officer also spotted

three men in the suspect vehicle but his radio call for assistance couldn't be heard. The scanner buff realized that the officer could be in trouble and arrived on the scene and used his cell phone to dial 9-1-1. Montgomery County police arrived within three minutes and the suspects were arrested.

SHERIFF OKAYS SELLING TRUNKED RADIOS TO CITIZENS. The Hillsborough County, Florida Sheriff's Office, reported the March 22 Tampa Tribune, agreed to allow citizens who want to monitor its radio transmissions to buy "programmed scanners." But the radios start at about $1,800 each. Sheriff's officials, the paper stated, made the decision under the intense lobbying of David Pinero, a scanner enthusiast who "was watching his favorite hobby die out." Unfortunately, Pinero won't even be able to partake in his victory. He says he can't afford the new scanners.

Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for both style and content. When submitting material please make certain we have your phone number should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a SASE.

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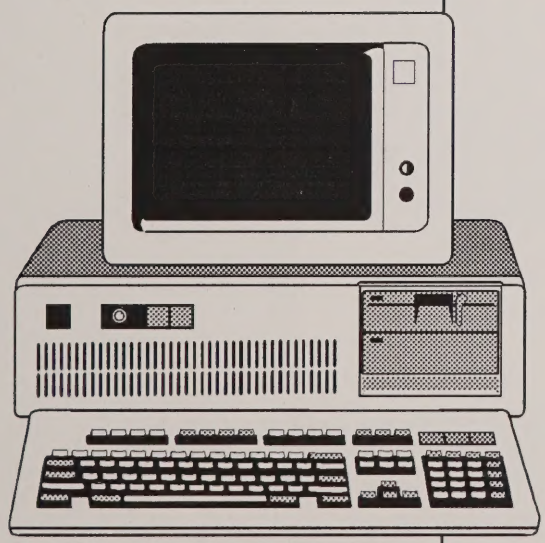
The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the *Capitol Hill Monitors*. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues are $10 and include 12 issues (back issues cost $1 each). Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney. Membership will be prorated accordingly in the event of a postage increase.

Meeting Coordinators:
Mike Peyton, Maryland Coordinator (703-749-7379)
Ken Fowler, Virginia Coordinator (703-385-2165)

Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:
We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor!



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